

Message Text

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 122030Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1483

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BR AR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER TO BRAZIL

SUMMARY: WHILE VISIT OF ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER ROBLEDO WAS ESSENTIALLY PROTOCOLARY, WITH FEW SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, IT HAS BEEN SEEN HERE AS IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC STEP TOWARD CLOSER BILATERAL COOPERATION AND OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF ARGENTINE-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS. ROBLEDO ANNOUNCED THAT NEW AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY AND THAT BRAZIL-ARGENTINE ECONOMIC COORDINATING COMMISSION WOULD RESUME MEETING AFTER TWO-YEAR LAPSE. IN DEFINING ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY, AND IN VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, ROBLEDO STATEMENTS SUGGESTED SYMPATHY FOR AND PARALLELISM WITH CURRENT BRAZILIAN THESIS. PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING TO BRAZILIANS WAS ROBLEDO'S RECOGNITION THAT BRAZIL HAS NEITHER NEED NOR VOCATION TO CONDUCT "IMPERIALIST POLICY". END SUMMARY.

1. ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER ANGEL FEDERICO ROBLEDO WAS IN BRASILIA FROM SEPTEMBER 6 TO SEPTEMBER 8 TO MAKE FAREWELL CALLS ON PRESIDENT GEISEL AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS. ROBLEDO HAD SERVED AS AMBASSADOR HERE FOR TWO DAYS BEFORE BEING SUDDENTLY RECALLED IN AUGUST TO ASSUME THE POST OF FOREIGN MINISTER AND HAD NO CHANCE AT THAT TIME FOR FAREWELL CALLS.

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2. DURING A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE AIRPORT, WHERE HE WAS GREETED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, ROBLEDO ANNOUNCED THAT THE NAME OF THE NEW AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL WOULD BE PRESENTED FOR AGREEMENT "WITHIN A WEEK", AND THAT BY THE END OF THE YEAR A FIRM DATE SHOULD BE SET FOR A MEETING OF THE BRAZIL-ARGENTINE ECONOMIC COORDINATING COMMISSION (CEBAC), WHICH HAS NOT MET FOR TWO YEARS. ROBLEDO SAID, "I BELIEVE THAT, WITH THE CEBAC MEETING WE CAN ARRIVE AT SUBSTANTIAL ACCORDS TO INCREASE BILATERAL COMMERCE. PROBLEMS EXIST IN THE SECTOR, PRICIPALLY IN TRANSPORT, TARIFFS, AND EXCHANGE, BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT THESE CAN BE RESOLVED, RESPECTING RECIPROCAL INTERESTS." ROBLEDO FNISHED BY SAYNG THAT "WITHOUT DOUBT, BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA ARE INITIATING A NEW PHASE IN THEIR RELATIONS WHICH WILL BECOME EVIDENT WITH THE PACKAGE OF DECISIONS TO BE ADOPTED SHORTLY FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT."

3.ON SEPTEMBER 7, ROBLEDO WAS THE (ONLY FOREIGN) GUEST OF HONOR IN THE

PRESIDENT'S STAND FOR THE ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE. SEPTEMBER 8 ROBLEDO HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA.ACCORDING TO ARGENTINE EMBASSY COUNSELOR, THE TWO MEN MET ALONE FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF. IN ADDITION TO A BANQUET IN ROBLEDO'S HONOR, HE PAID COURTESY CALLS ON PRESIDENT GEISEL, THE PRESIDENTS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE, AND ON THE SUPREME COURT.

4. IN HIS IMPROVISED REMARKS AT THE LUNCHEON ROBLEDO SAID THAT ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY, SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES, OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROVERSIES. "THE CONCEPT OF RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY SUSTAINS ITSELF PRINCIPALLY IN THE PRINCIPLE OF JUSTICE WHICH SHOULD FORM THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. AND THAT NEW ORDER HAS TO BE ORCHESTRATED ON THE BASIS OF HORIZONTALITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE. AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WE HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO OFFER OUR PEOPLE THE SAME LEVELS OF WELL BEING."

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5. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH "O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO", ROBLEDO SAID THAT HE FELT THAT SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND TO THE DIFFERENCES WHICH DEVELOPED OVER THE ITAIPU DAM PROJECT, THAT COOPERATION IN THE SCIENTIFIC BRANCH OF THE NUCLEAR FIELD IS POSSIBLE, (ARGENTINE

EMBASSY COUNSELOR REPORTED THAT NO SPECIFIC PLANS FOR COOPERATION ARE BEING DISCUSSED ALTHOUGH BRAZIL IS TRYING TO HIRE ARGENTINE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS), AND COMMENTED ON "THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER". ROBLEDO SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WILL NOT PRESENT ANY DEFINITE THESES DURING THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUT SAID "WE WANT, SIMPLY, TO UPHOLD THE RIGHTS OF A JUST INTERNATIONAL ORDER THAT COMBINES ALL ASPECTS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES. THIS ORDER SHOULD STRUCTURE ITSELF ON A BASE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FACING THE GREAT WORLD PROBLEMS. THESE EXCEED, IN MANY CASES, THE POSSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONS AND OF REGIONAL GROUPS." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES REPRESENT A VERY IMPORTANT FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, AND THAT THE BRAZILIAN THESIS ON THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER IS A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION. IN THE ESTADO INTERVIEW ROBLEDO STATED THAT "BRAZIL DOES NOT NEED TO CONDUCT AN IMPERIALISTIC POLICY THAT COULD HURT ITS NEIGHBORS, NOR DOES IT HAVE THE INCLINATION FOR THIS." IN A FOLLOW-UP EDITORIAL, ESTADO COMMENTED THAT THE "MYTH" OF BRAZIL'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPERIALIST INTENTIONS HAD ORIGINATED IN ARGENTINA UNDER LANUSSE AND CAMPORA AS MEANS OF DIVERTING ATTENTION FROM ARGENTINA'S POOR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. THE EDITORIAL WENT ON TO STATE THAT ROBLEDO'S COMMENT SIGNIFIED A NEW AWARENESS BY ARGENTINA THAT HER INTERESTS AND THOSE OF THE SUB-REGION CAN ONLY BENEFIT FROM A POLICY OF COOPERATION RATHER THAN RIVALRY.

6. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL INVOLVED TOLD EMBASSY THAT NOTHING CONCRETE WAS DISCUSSED AND THAT NO DEFINITE PLANS HAD BEEN MADE, BUT DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN GENERAL AND PROTOCOLARY. SIMILARLY, ARGENTINE EMBASSY COUNSELOR CONCLUDED THAT CONCRETE

RESULTS FROM VISIT WOULD NOT BE SEEN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, BUT THAT ROBLEDO WAS VITALLY CONCERNED WITH IMPROVED RELATION WITH BRAZIL, FEELING IT WOULD BENEFIT ENTIRE CONTINENT. PRINCIPAL SUBSTANTIVE TALKS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ROBLEDO'S ONE AND HALF HOUR WORKING SESSION WITH SILVEIRA, WHICH ARGENTINE COUNSELOR NOTES NO ONE ELSE ATTENDED AND FROM WHICH FEW DETAILS HAVE FILTERED OUT.

PRESS COVERAGE HERE WAS GENERALLY ENTHUSIASTIC AND POSITIVE, TENDING TO SEE VISIT AS MARKING NEW AND FAVORABLE TURN IN RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL'S IMPORTANT THOUGH AT TIMES SUSPECT NEIGHBOR. IN STATEMENT AT LUNCHEON GIVEN BY SILVEIRA, ROBLEDO SAID HE "RATIFIED ALL THE PARTS, FOCI AND POINTS OF VIEW OF THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER." IN OTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS ROBLEDO ECHOED SUCH FAVORITE THEMES OF CURRENT BRAZILIAN POLICY AS DEMAND FOR "JUST INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC" ORDER "BASED ON HORIZONTALITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE". PRESS INTERPRETED ROBLEDO'S REMARKS AS A RATIFICATION OF BRAZIL'S POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, SUCH AS SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. WHILE HE DID NOT REJECT THIS PRESS INTERPRETATION, ARGENTINE COUNSELOR COMMENTED THAT WHILE SILVEIRA'S IDEAS WERE APPRECIATED, ACTUAL DEGREE OF SUPPORT FOR THEM WOULD HAVE TO BE DECIDED AT HIGHER LEVEL.
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